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NEGRO CREATION LEGEND.

THE following myth, recorded by the Rev. Père Mothon, who states that he took it down from the mouth of an aged negro on the banks of the Mississippi (in Louisiana?) is worthy of attention. It is imbedded in a discursive article in the "Annuaire de l'Institut Canadien de Québec," 1878 (at page 3), and is well worth reproducing here in English :—

"In the beginning of the world, God, in order to people the earth, wished to create a man of each nation, to do which he took a clod of earth, kneaded it, and, detaching pieces from it, fashioned in succession a *Negro*, a *Chinaman*, an *Indian*, and so with all the other peoples. When the lump of earth was exhausted, there were yet lacking two men to reach the number upon which he had himself fixed. What was to be done? Not finding earth to suit him, God stretched forth his arm and seized the first animal which came beneath his hand. It was a *butterfly*; he clipped off its wings, made for it arms and legs, breathed upon it, gave it a soul, and placed it in a corner of the earth. This was the first *Frenchman*. With a second movement like the first, the Creator extended his hand, and seized again the first thing that met it. This time it happened to be an *ant*; he made it undergo the same operations, gave it the form and shape of a man, breathed into it a soul, and placed it in another corner of the earth. This was the first *Englishman*.

"And consequently the Englishman and the Frenchman, having proceeded from animate beings, instead of coming from a lump of earth, have always made their way in this world better than the rest."

This myth may be useful for comparison with other and similar legends.

A. F. Chamberlain.